

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00
L-03 /046 W

-----129904 121716Z /44

R 120540Z JAN 78

FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7903

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS BOMBAY 0102

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
800 INDEPENDENCE AV. ATTN: FS 50

ROME PLEASE PASS TO FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, ROME,
ITALY

BRUSSELS PLEASE PASS TO FAA

FROM GOUTIERE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IN

SUBJ: AIR INDIA B 747 ACCIDENT BOMBAY

REF : BOMBAY 0001

1. AIR INDIA FLIGHT 885 B-747 BOMBAY-DUBAI DEPARTED BOMBAY
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT JANUARY 1, '78 AT 1442 GMT RUNWAY
27. W/CLEAR TEMP. 26 DEGREE C. EYE WITNESS STATES AIRCRAFT
CLIMBED TO ABOUT 2000 FEET MADE LEFT BANK AND DOVE INTO SEA
AT STEEP ANGLE. RADAR CONTACT LOST AT 1444. CRASH SITE 1904
NORTH BY 1746 EAST FIVE AND HALF MILES FROM AIRPORT AND ONE
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NAUTICAL MILE SOUTH OF RUNWAY HEADING 271 DEGREE IN TWENTY
FIVE FEET VERY MUDDY WATER. SALVAGING OPERATIONS BEING
CONDUCTED BY INDIAN NAVY. SCUBA DIVERS STATE VISIBILITY AT
SEA BED IS ZERO AND DUE TO STRONG UNDERCURRENT IS HAMPERING
THEIR OPERATIONS. AS OF NOW APPROXIMATELY 10,000 LBS. OF
DEBRIS BEEN RETRIEVED. OF INTEREST ARE I.E. - FLIGHT
RECORDER NOW WITH NTSB IN WASHINGTON, PART OF BODY GEAR,

TWO RIGHT SIDE OUT OUTBOARD FLAP, JACK CREWS SHOWING THAT FLAP IN UP POSITION. ENGINE SHOWS IT POSSIBLY WAS AT CLIMB THRUST. ALL OTHER PIECES SUCH AS SKIN AREA DEVELOPED ACCORDION CONDITIONS. MOST DEBRIS NOT LARGER THAN SIX FEET. IMPACT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AT GREAT SPEED. DOUBTFUL THAT VOICE RECORDER WILL BE RECOVERED DUE TO POOR VISIBILITY AND NO LOCATING TRANSMITTER ON IT. IT IS FELT THIS RECORDER WOULD DISCLOSE VITAL INFORMATION FOR SOLVING CAUSE

2. TAKEOFF DATA -

GROSS WEIGHT ESTIMATE 582.2 LBS., ACTUAL 569.8 LBS.

VSPDS. 127 - 135 - 145 BASED ON ESTIMATE GW. REDUCED
EPR OF 1.395 ALSO ON ESTIMATE GW. FUEL AT BLOCKS 132.0
LBS. FLAPS AT 20 DEGREE SETTING.

CREW HISTORY -

CAPTAIN KUKAR AGE 50; BIRTHDAY 3-23-27, INDIAN ALTP
NO.254 LAST PROFICIENCY JUNE '77. MEDICAL JULY '77.
TOTAL FLIGHT HRS. 17912, B 747 TIME 2480 HRS. MEDICAL
HISTORY SHOWS DIABETES IN PAST. TOOK STRICT DIET BEFORE
U PHYSICALS. WAS OVERWEIGHT. WAS KNOWN TO ALCOHOL DRINKS.
HAD TAKEN ALCOHOL BEVERAGES NEW YEARS EVE.

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FIRST OFFICER CAPTAIN VIRMANI, BIRTHDAY 8-29-34, AGE 43.
INDIAN ALTP 843 HAD B 747 RATING FOR COPILOT ONLY. TOTAL
FLIGHT HOURS 4663. 88.0 HRS. ON 747. LAST PROFICIENCY
NOV. '77. PHYSICAL JUNE '77.

3. INVESTIGATION IS SLOW SINCE NOT MUCH TO GO ON. DEPENDS
MAINLY ON SALVAGE OPERATIONS. EVERYTHING IS SPECULATIVE AND
THEORIZING ON CAUSE OF ACCIDENT I.E. EXPLOSIVE CHARGE,
HIJACK ATTEMPT, PILOT INCAPACITATION, SPLIT FLAP CONDITION.
RUNAWAY STAB NOSE DOWN. AS IS KNOWN THE FLIGHT RECORDER
TELLS WHAT HAPPENED AND VOICE RECORDER TELLS WHY IT HAPPEN-
ED. IN THIS CASE THE V. RECORDER WOULD BE MOST VALUABLE
ITEM TO HAVE. THE DIVERS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO MAKE ALL
EFFORTS FOR RETRIEVING THE V. RECORDER.
COURTNEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: EAIR, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Sheryl P. Walter
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